

1/22/92

Called Elizabeth Nuxell.

5/10/784

William Constable & Co was formed about 1783,  
with Robert Morris, Younemur Morris, William  
Constable ~~and~~ John Rucker as partners. <sup>as</sup> <sup>1783?</sup> <sup>June 1784</sup>  
name changed to Constable Rucker & Co by  
~~end of 1784~~ <sup>Always a partner</sup> (was Rucker added then?)

John Rucker went abroad about 1784 and  
stayed in Europe (England & Holland)  
for the firm. He was there in 1785  
and probably ordered Noosas ~~in 1784~~  
~~with Robert Morris~~  
~~in 1784~~ Robert & Younemur Morris was back & forth between  
Phila & NY in 1785 and travelled with  
Robert in 1786 to straighten out matters.

Now Morris first went to Europe in 1789 and stayed  
til 1800. He became <sup>c.s.</sup> Ambassador to France  
when Jefferson went home. Was in England  
& Germany. Was in France during French  
Revolution.

Constable Papers at NY Public

*not the  
partnership  
contract*

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll  
The Papers of Robert Morris  
Queens College, CUNY  
Flushing, NY 11367-0904

April 22, 1992

Dear Elizabeth:

Thank you so much for the copies of the Morris letters with the \$ sign. The September 2, 1784 and May 5, 1786 letters seem to be written by a scribe. The June 30, 1786, August 12, 1786 and October 8, 1787 letters seem to be in the hand of Morris. Is this your opinion also? If not please straighten me out.

I will not be publishing the \$ material for a while as I just visited areas around Manchac, Louisiana and am seeking more data there.

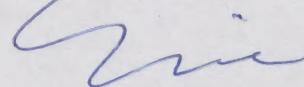
I am convinced that following the 1763 treaty the changeover of the money of account in the Mississippi Valley from French to Spanish is the reason the English and then American merchants in West Florida simplified the peso sign. They were accustomed to the f sign for both sterling and various east coast moneys of account and the livre sign at best was the simple abbreviation l. They wanted a practical and distinctive peso or dollar sign and thus apparently converted the peso sign into an easily written and distinct symbol which could be written for accounting purposes on one level only. The f was such a sign. I wish I had positive proof but there are no other \$ signs found as yet in other jurisdictions.

I am in touch with the Franklin papers.

I have a question you answered for me over the telephone and I didn't write it down. Who were the partners and what was their participation and dates in Constable and Co. and in Constable Rucker & Co.?

It is always a pleasure to exchange thoughts with you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

# The Papers of Robert Morris

December 13, 1994

Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thanks for all the materials you sent. The glossies were immediately forwarded to the press for inclusion in volume 8.

Enclosed are the first installments on replies. Hopefully, you will receive them on your return from Mexico. I am enclosing a transcript of the Articles of Partnership for William Constable and Company/Constable Rucker and Company, and our draft notes covering the origin of the firm and identification of its members. No doubt we will learn more before volume 9 is finally complete. As previously mentioned the Constable letterbook and accounts for late 1784 through 1786 are missing from the known Constable collections, and relatively few other letters for that period survive. There were no hints about coins in what does survive.

Reviewing our notes regarding the mint that appeared in our volume 7, I see that one of the original pattern coins was given to Samuel Curwen in England in 1784 and that the Indian design attributed to Gouverneur Morris appeared on a coin in 1785, so someone had ready access to the coins and the coin designs for production either in England or in America. In your notes on the Hodder piece, you mention another pattern coin as going to England and one to France. I don't think we had information on those two. Do you have articles on them? As also previously mentioned the alternate New York firm tied to Morris was Daniel Parker and Company with whom Morris was involved in the Empress of China and other voyages. Once Daniel Parker fled to Europe in late 1784, Andrew Craigie handled his affairs in New York. I still think Constable and Company would be the more likely candidate for coin production or importation.

Is it definite the 1783 and 1785 coppers were produced in the same place? Are there equally large numbers extant of each? Could Morris's network have done a trial run in 1783 or 1784, either in America or England, then arranged for a larger production in England in 1785? Were Mr. Ringo's British punches found on both the 1783 and 1785 Novas? So far I have no further evidence of what happened to the mint equipment, but I'll keep my eyes open.

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Queens College/CUNY  
Flushing, New York 11367-1597  
Telephone (718) 997-5180

Perusing the Constable Letterbooks at New York Public Library, I found lots of dollar signs from 1784 on (but none before that date). The 1784 dollar signs always follow the number. They appear in letters addressed to merchants in Philadelphia, in the West Indies, and elsewhere, but since they are letterbook copies it is not certain the symbol was used in the recipients' copies, or was only Constable's personal shorthand symbol. However, by December 1786, there is a letter from a merchant in Canton, China, named Affouke who uses \$s before the number in a letter addressed to Constable, Rucker and Company. In 1787 Constable uses the sign both before and after the number, but from 1789 on he always uses it before the number.

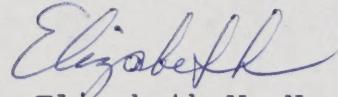
Constable, like most others you talk about is an English speaking merchant who had strong trade ties with the Spanish colonies, but there is no indication of why he starts using dollars signs, or why they proliferate so quickly from 1784 on in manuscript but only slowly in print in the late 1790s and early 1800s. A few Tench Tilghman and Company (Baltimore) letters for 1784-1786 I've seen lately also have \$s--after the number.

Unfortunately, I have no discoveries on printed dollar signs, and can only say your article sounds plausible. The same for the Portuguese sign, which I have never encountered in the documents available to us.

Would you have copies from the Colonial Newsletter (February 1993?) of the previous article or articles regarding the copper etc. used for the Nova Constellatio coins that are referred to in the article you sent? I couldn't evaluate Hodder's full argument without seeing the earlier data. I took a quick look at the indexes to the Hamilton Papers and the Papers of the Continental Congress to see if they gave clues as to what happened to Morris's supplies of copper or the mint machinery but nothing appeared; perhaps something will eventually show up in Treasury records.

Hope these comments are of some help. Our best regards for happy holidays and a joyful and productive new year.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

8/27/95 8/28/95 718-997-5180

Elizabeth M Nuxoll res 718 ~~6~~ 631 5309  
Mary A. V. Gallagher res 718 859 5098

Gouverneur Morris bought Morrisiana subject to  
purchase money mortgages and ~~since~~ the deed was dated  
April 4, 1787. He had borrowed money to make  
the ~~down payment~~ from James McComb who was  
a partner of William Edgar - William Edgar being  
William Constable's brother in law (his wife's sister's husband)  
Morrisiana was <sup>located</sup> ~~located~~ <sup>where</sup> the East River and  
Harlem River ~~at the Bronx~~ come together, being part of the Bronx.

Gouverneur Morris is listed in the Philadelphia <sup>directory</sup> Directory  
for 1785 (this is the first ~~one~~) as residing  
on Market Street between 2nd & 3rd.

10/20/95 Telephone call from Eliz Nuxoll  
See Papers of Robert Morris p. 741

Currier  
~~Currier~~ diary says "a young Bartlett"  
came from America ~~and presented them the~~  
copper coin.

20? This not Josiah Bartlett who  
was in New Hampshire then.

my page 23 Edgar advanced money for  
Constable, but not for Rucker

p. 25 Morris changed his partnership  
name to Samuel English & Co when  
1778? Phila was occupied by British or before  
~~the~~ time of Superintendent  
instead of using Willing & Morris which  
but. English died in Oct. 1783  
and name was changed <sup>then</sup>  
Willing Alonzo and Swanick  
1783 to 1795 +  
Constable Rucker & Co was the only N.Y. plnsb,

# The Papers of Robert Morris

December 9, 1995

Dear Eric,

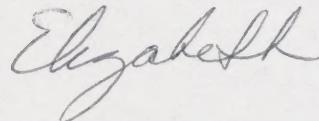
Enclosed is a copy of a note found in the Constable-Pierrepoint papers at New York Public Library. It might be eligible for inclusion in your revised book, so I am forwarding it to you for consideration. It is issued by John Pierce for army pay under the auspices of the Board of Treasury. It seems to be issued either on the same blank notes as Morris issued for army pay (but with the Office of Finance heading cut off), or to be issued on similar paper and printing but with Office of Finance eliminated. I think these notes are what are referred to as Pierce's notes--which I had previously considered a reference to final settlement certificates signed by Pierce. I have not looked at the original carefully for watermarks or other identifications--just noticed this on a microfilm of Board of Treasury items in the Constable papers that we had made for research for volume 9.

We can no doubt check further should the note be of any interest to you.

Just received a call saying volume 8 should be published this month and will start to be available for distribution around the middle of January.

With best wishes for a happy holiday and success in all your endeavors in the new year.

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll



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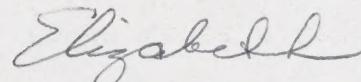
# The Papers of Robert Morris

January 5, 1996

Dear Eric:

Found these notes in our search of Treasury Records from the National Archives. Thought they might shed additional light on the questions about copper used for the coins made by the Treasury Dept. I remember you sent me some debate on that subject from one of the numismatic publications. Some of the films is not completely clear, so I'm not absolutely sure of our transcription. Should the material be useful we could print the original text from the microfilm.

Hope this material is of value. Happy New Year.



Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

ENCLOSURE 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGE

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Treasury Blotter 15

1791

18 Oct

[8274]: [also Treasury Journals, 2428]  
General Account of Copper rec'd from the Commissary General's  
Department Dr. to Sunds:  
For 71,174 lbs Rough copper which was recd from the Military  
stores department and delivered to Jas. Jarvis under two Contracts  
entered into by him the 12th May 1787 with the late Commissioners  
of the Board of Treasury for Supplying Quantities of Copper Coin:  
To Benjamin Dudley his receipt for 17t.12C.1 wrought Copper folio  
593 For the said 17 tons 12 hund. 12Qr which was deld. by Mr. John  
Ross of Philada to said B. Dudley agreeable to an Order of Robt  
Morris Esqr afterwards deld. to Mr. Jarvis by Order of the  
Treasury Board 2.630.12  
[8275]: To Sales of Stores in the Military and Ordnance Stores  
Department: For 35,946 1/2 lbs of Copper which came from Edwd  
Russell of Boston to the late board of Treasury and afterwards  
deld. to Mr. J. Jarvis by their Order 7.922 40/  
For the difference which arises between extension of 35,288 lbs.  
Copper as computd in preceding entry @11 1/4 12,197.89 4275.49  
4,828.1  
James Jarvis h/a under two Contracts entered into with the  
Commissioners of the late Board of Treasury of the 12 May for  
supplying certain quantities of Copper Coin folio 761 Dr to  
General Account of Copper delivered from the Commissary General  
Department folio 998  
For Seventy One thousand one hundred and Seventy four & 1/2 rough  
Copper delivd him under Contract at 11/4 Sterling P lb as appears  
by the Report of the Auditor of the Treasury No 1671 Admitted and  
Certified by the Comptroller the 31 Oct and Cancelled  
[8276]: Hillegas late Treasurer of the US his account of Copper  
Coin recd from Jarvis under contract made by the late board of  
Treasury the 12 May 1787 . . . [Journals 2429] Balance due from  
Jarvis 10,842.24 transferred to books of new govt. [Fol. 1116]:  
For 8968 lbs coined copper delivered by said Jarvis to sd.  
Hillegas which at 2 1/4 Coined copper per dollar being the price  
stipulated per contract = 3985 77/

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll  
The Papers of Robert Morris  
Queen's College, CUNY  
Flushing, NY 11367-1597

January 29, 1996

Dear Elizabeth:

Your interesting letter of December 9, 1995 was received just before Evelyn and I took off for the Arabian Gulf. We were in Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Oman. What an eye opening experience! We came home with the flu and are just getting back to normal. Happy new year.

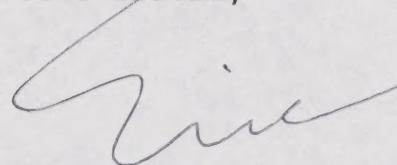
The November 12, 1785 Pierce note for Army pay has a fixed denomination (printed twice) and is payable to bearer. In my view it would not be in that form unless intended for circulation prior to its due date in 6 months. What do you think "No. 7" means? Could it mean a series of notes were issued to one soldier? Are there other denominations?

If you have a chance to examine the original I will include it in my 4th edition. I need the exact size and any other descriptive detail. Maybe you can get a direct photocopy. I hope volume 8 is ready to be ordered. You should be very proud of it.

I have your January 5, 1996 letter on Federal copper but will let that rest for the present.

With continued thanks for all your guidance and help.

Your friend,



Eric P. Newman

# The Papers of Robert Morris

March 19, 1996

Dear Eric,

I finally got to the library to check out the Pierce note. It is a cut down version of one of Morris's 6 month notes. The Office of Finance part and the 1783 date were cut off the top and the written parts were filled in differently than the Morris notes would have been.

It had the National Debt water mark (all caps) and the Capital letter N watermark underneath the National Debt mark.

It was on yellowish paper and was not cut down evenly but measured 6 3/8 inches wide and 2 14/16-2 15/16 inches long.

I believe that the number filled in meant that it was the 7th note of that denomination issued by John Pierce as Paymaster General.

According to Treasury Waste Book E (p. 31), under date of November 12, 1785, a warrant was issued on that date to enable Pierce to discharge one month's pay to non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the late company of Artillery at West Point commanded by Captain Lieutenant Johnston. The bill was probably one of those he issued for that payment.

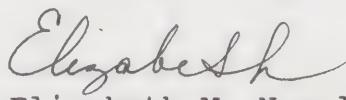
I have ordered a slide and a color print of the note from the New York Public Library but it won't arrive for a few more weeks. If you decided to publish it you probably could borrow my print, or you could order your own, but in either case you would have to get permission to publish from the library.

The source is the Constable-Pierrepont Papers, New York Public Library.  
(Box 5, folder marked Board of Treasury Papers, 1785-1786).

Hope this information will be of help.

As you no doubt know I will be giving the Stack lecture at the Numismatic Society in April. If you are the one who recommended me I thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

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# News Release

## THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

For Release: MARCH 21, 1996

Contact: Arlene P. Jacobs

### ELIZABETH NUXOLL TO DELIVER STACK LECTURE

As had been true since 1992, the Stack Memorial Lecture will be devoted to a topic in the numismatic history of the United States. The 1996 program will be delivered on Saturday, April 13, 1996, at 3:00 PM by Dr. Elizabeth M. Nuxoll.

Dr. Nuxoll is the project director and co-editor of the Papers of Robert Morris, which is being sponsored by Queens College of the City University of New York, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The volume (eight have appeared so far) are being published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Volume seven of the papers contained a number of documents of particular interest to numismatists. The most spectacular were the documents associated with the Nova Constellation patterns; but there is also much about Morris's attempts to find ways to fund the government after the collapse of the Continental Currency and the early records of the Bank of North America.

The project of publishing the papers of Robert Morris has also been the recipient of a grant from the Donald Groves Fund of the American Numismatic Society.

The Stack Memorial Lecture is presented at the AN each April through the courtesy of the Stack Family of New York.

There will be a reception afterward. The lecture and reception are free to the public. The AN is located at the and Broadway.

\*\*\*\*\*

Telephone: (212) 234-3130  
Telefax: (212) 234-3381  
Tuesday-Saturday

BROADWAY AT 155<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK N.Y. 10032



# News Release

## THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

For Release:

**MARCH 23, 1996**

Contact: Arlene P. Jacobs

### CORRECTED RELEASE

#### ELIZABETH NUXOLL TO DELIVER STACK LECTURE

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Tuesday-Saturday

BROADWAY AT 155<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK N.Y. 10032



# THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

## The Joseph B. and Morton M. Stack Memorial Lecture

Saturday, April 13, 1996  
3:00 p.m.

**Dr. Elizabeth M. Nuxoll**  
Project Director and Co-editor  
The Papers of Robert Morris  
Queens College/CUNY  
Flushing, New York

“A Generation of Numismatic Co-operation:  
Findings on the Notes and Coins of the  
Confederation through the Papers of Robert Morris.”

A reception will follow.

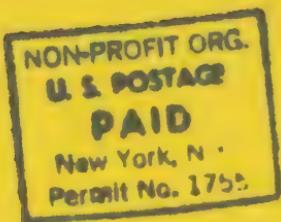
This lecture and the reception  
have been made possible through  
the generosity of the Stack family.

The American Numismatic Society  
Broadway at 155th Street  
New York, NY 10032  
(212) 234-3130  
[Info@AmNumSoc.Org](mailto:Info@AmNumSoc.Org)

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

BROADWAY AT 155<sup>TH</sup> STREET

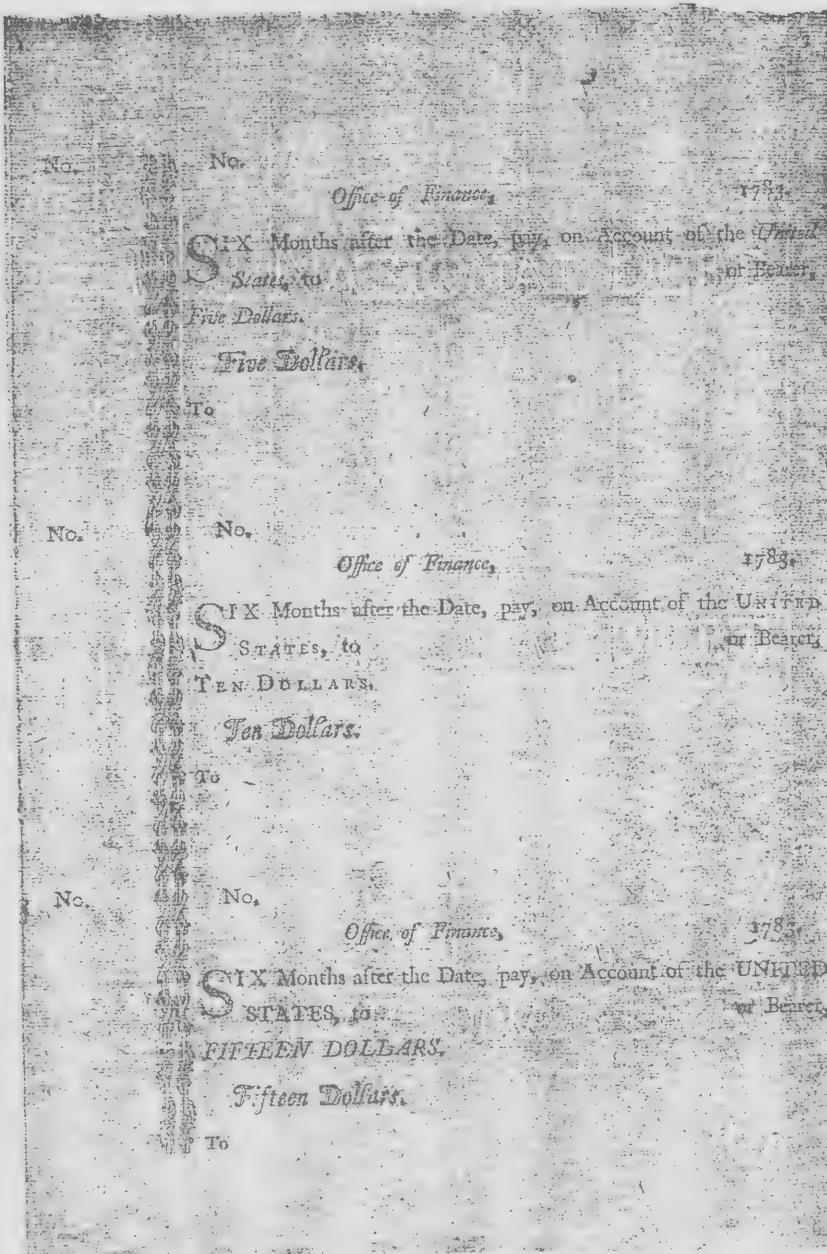
NEW YORK N.Y. 10032



2429

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
% Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
PO Box 14020  
St. Louis, MO 63178

U



Sample Page (Blank) of Robert Morris's Notes for Five, Ten, and Fifteen Dollars Issued at Six Month's Sight, 1783

Papers of Robert Morris Vol VIII

No.

No.

Office of Finance,

1783

SIX Months after the Date, pay, on Account of the UNITED  
STATES, to  
or Bearer,

TWENTY DOLLARS.

Twenty Dollars.

To

No.

No.

Office of Finance,

1783

SIX Months after the Date, pay, on Account of the UNITED  
STATES, to  
or Bearer,

FIFTY DOLLARS.

Fifty Dollars.

To

No.

No.

Office of Finance,

1783

SIX Months after the Date, pay, on Account of the UNITED  
STATES, to  
or Bearer,

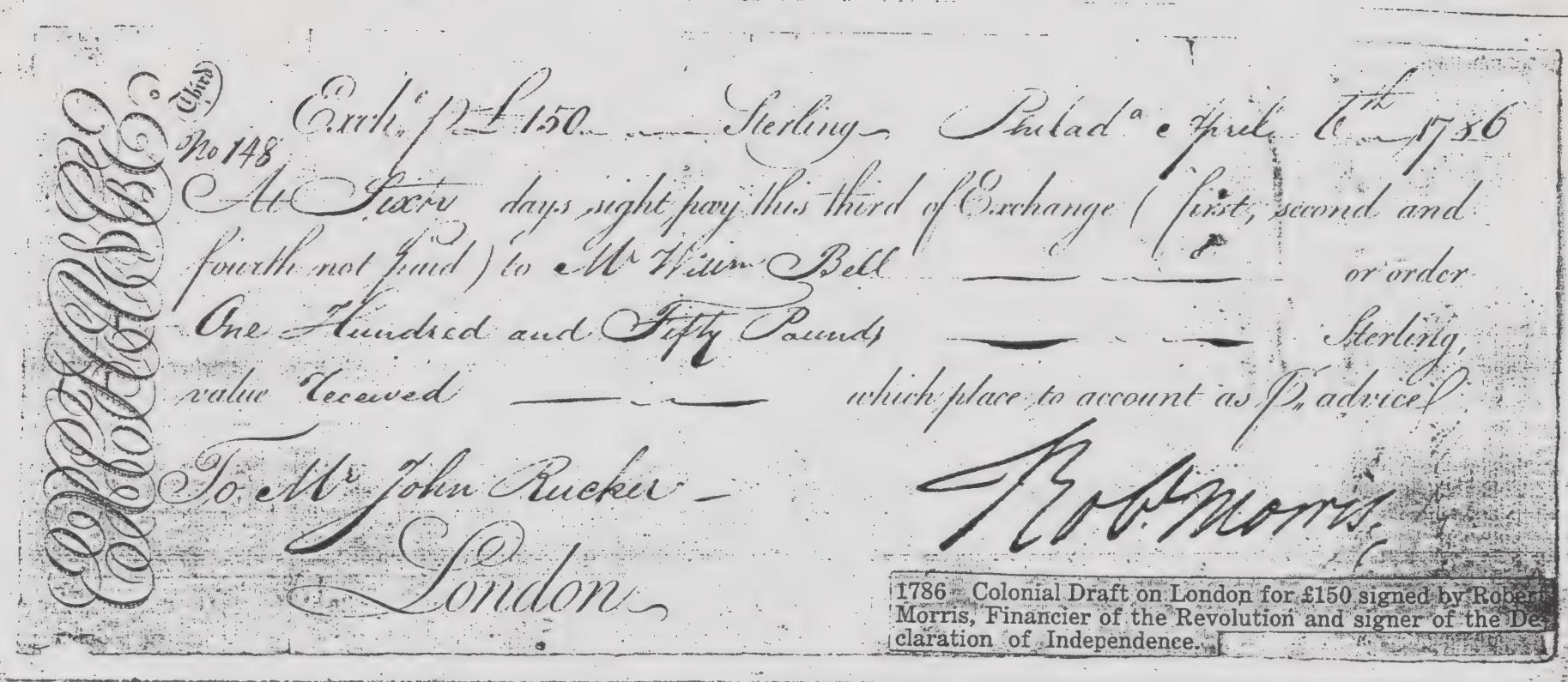
ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

One Hundred Dollars.

To

Sample Page (Blank) of Robert Morris's Notes for Twenty, Fifty, and One Hundred  
Dollars Issued at Six Month's Sight, 1783

Papers of Robert Morris Vol VIII



Rucker

E.P. Neum collector

pay the within Compt to  
Dennis D. Bradby or order

William Bell

Dec

Philadelphia

1785

For Value received, I promise to pay on Demand  
to <sup>or</sup> Forty Dollars in  
Coin or Bills of Exchange at Thirty Days Sight for Nine Pound  
Sterling on London One Hundred Current Guilders on Amsterdam  
or Two Hundred and Sixteen Livres on Paris at the option  
of the Holder

Forty Dollars

-100-

SIX Months after the Date, pay, on Account of the United  
States, to William Johnston or Bearer,  
Five Dollars. No. 7. Payable in Nov. 1785  
Five Dollars. By order of the Board of Treasury  
To The Receiver of Contingent, General & other  
Taxes. " " "

270

Philadelphia

178

For Value received, I promise to pay on Demand  
to <sup>or</sup> Forty Dollars, in  
specie that of Exchange at New York, Liverpool, Antwerp,  
Hamburg, London, One Hundred Current Guilders on Amster-  
dam, One hundred and Sixteen Livres on Paris, at the option  
of the Holder.

Forty Dollars,

Polaroid

B38432A41949B

Smythe  
3/31/93 Auction

Robert Morris male

*FAX of Photocopy of sent by  
Papers of Robert Morris.*

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris  
and William Constable

May 10, 1784

Be it remembered that Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, through a mutual Confidence in each other, have entered into a joint Copartnership as Merchants, under the firm of William Constable & Company; the said Partnership to commence on the day of the Date hereof, and to continue for Seven Years thence next ensuing, if the Parties shall live so long, and be mutually content to continue the same. And they have thereupon settled the following Articles or Conditions.

Article 1st

Each of the said Parties shall advance and putt into the Stock of this House the sum of Five thousand pounds Pennsylvania Currency in Specie, at the rate of seven shillings and six pence for a Mexican Dollar, which Sum making in the whole Fifteen thousand Pounds shall be the trading Capital of said Copartnership. But as the whole of the said Capital is not immediately necessary, each of the parties shall putt into the Hands of William Constable his Note to William Constable & Co. for the said Sum, and the same shall be paid as the Business may require.

Article 2d

The said ~~trading~~ Capital or Stock shall be employed by the said Wm Constable in a House of Commerce at Newyork in such

lawfull Commercial Business and Adventures as shall be mutually approved of by the said Parties.

#### Article 3d

A sett of Books shall be provided at the Expence of the Copartnership in which shall be kept by the said William Constable regular and fair Entries of all the Business, and Accounts of the said Company; He being to account fairly and honestly for all the Dealings and Transactions of said Company, and also for all Monies and Goods which they may receive and all Debts which may become due to them during the term of this Agreement. And He shall settle the Cash Account at least once a Month, and Balance the Books at the end of every Year.

#### Article 4th

The other Parties shall always have full and free access to all the Books and papers relating to this Concern, and no Adventure shall be undertaken, or purchase or Sale made which shall be objected to by either of the Parties; and the said Wm. Constable shall furnish the said Robert Morris every Month with a Copy of the Waste Books.

#### Article 5th

The said William Constable shall conduct the said Business to the best of his skill and Abilities for the Interest and Honour of the Parties, and shall not during the continuance of the Copartnership engage in any Business, other than what shall appertain thereto, or be for the benefit thereof.

#### Article 6th

The said William Constable shall annually draw out of the Cash of the said Company Four Hundred and fifty pounds money aforesaid as an Allowance towards the extra Expences of House keeping occasioned by his being resident where the Business of the House is transacted, which Sum together with the rent of Stores, Clerk hire, Stationary, and other incidental Expences attending the Business shall be charged to Profit and Loss in the Company's Books, and be equally borne by the Parties hereto.

#### Article 7th

Each of the Parties shall be paid a Dividend of Seven Hundred and fifty pounds of the Money aforesaid annually for their Subsistence from the Cash of the Company; the Sums so paid to be charged to the respective Accounts of Stock of the Parties in the Company's Books, but the said Dividend shall arise only upon the actual payments of Money made on the Notes abovementioned, and in proportion to such actual payments. And it is further understood that neither of the said parties, except the said William Constable, shall draw the full amount of the said Dividend if the profits shall not be sufficient for the payment thereof, but in such Case they shall only draw in proportion to such Profits, so as not to reduce the Capital Stock.

#### Article 8th

All Commissions arising or to arise from Consignments, Orders or Business done or transacted of any kind whatsoever by the said William Constable for the said Company, as well

as all Profits, Advantages, and Emoluments, arising from the Trade Business, or Transactions by him undertaken, or executed on Account of the said Company, shall be equally divided between the said Parties, and in like manner all Losses by Fires, Robbery, Adventures, Voyages, bad Debts, or other unavoidable Accidents or Circumstances shall be equally borne and sustained by the Parties hereto.

#### Article 9th

If either of the Parties shall choose to decline or dissolve the Copartnership before the expiration of the term of Seven Years, He shall be at liberty so to do after giving notice of his intention and desire to the other Parties at least twelve Months before, at the end whereof and not before or without such previous notice the Partnership shall be dissolved, as it also shall be upon the Death of either of the Parties hereto, unless that upon the Death of the said Robert Morris He should direct by his Will that the said Partnership be continued to the end of the term for the benefit of his Heirs or any of them, and it shall be agreeable to the other Parties to continue, in which Case the said partnership shall be continued, notwithstanding the Death of the said Robert Morris.

#### Article 10th

At the termination or dissolution of said Partnership, no new Contract, Adventure, purchase, or undertaking shall be made or engaged in, but all the Accounts and Business of the Company shall be closed as soon as the nature and

Circumstances of the Business will admitt; and after payment of all just Debts of the said Company the remainder of the Monies, Stock and Effects shall be equally divided as fast as the Circumstances will permitt amongst the said Parties viz one third to each of them, or their proper legal Representative; and in like manner in Case of Loss the same shall be equally borne; it being understood that all Losses, Charges and Expences of the Company are to be brought to the Debit of Profit and Loss Account each Year, all Commissions, Profit and Gains to the Credit of it; and the Account of Profit and Loss is to be Ballanced by charging or Crediting, as the Case may require, the Stock account of each party with one third of the Balance of the said Profit and Loss Account; whereby it will be seen each Year how far the Stock of the respective Parties is encreased, or diminished.

#### Article 11th

In Case of the Death of William Constable before the termination or dissolution of the Copartnership, the surviving Partners shall at the joint Expence of the Partnership employ some capable, carefull and responsible Person (to be approved of by the Executors or Administrators of the said William Constable) to wind up and close the Affairs of the Copartnership, and after paying the just Debts to make due Division as aforesaid.

#### Article 12th

The said parties shall each of them exert his outmost Abilities to fulfill the Engagements by Him above

stipulated, so as to promote the true Interest of the Copartnership. And for the due performance of the said Engagements Each of the said Parties doth bind Himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators in the penal Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds Current money aforesaid.

In Witness whereof the Parties to these Presents have hereunto interchangeably sett their Hands and Seals this tenth Day of May in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty four

Sealed and Delivered

Robt Morris

In the presence of

Gouv Morris

Jos: Stretch

Wm. Constable

Robt Heysham

the witnesses to the partnership contract of  
May 10, 1785 are Joseph Stretch and Robert  
Heysham, both of Philadelphia and both having  
been and <sup>then being</sup> employed ~~United States in~~ treasury  
operations of the United States in Philadelphia.  
This indicates that the partnership contract  
was signed by Gouverneur Morris and Robert  
Morris in Philadelphia.

See: the Papers of Robert Morris

pp 262, 263, 541

pp 296, 297, 541

Stretch worked for <sup>Robert</sup> Morris as Supt of Finance.

In Mar 1783 both Stretch & Heysham worked as  
clerks in Dept of Finance and Marine  
in Phila.

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, May 10, 1784

ENDORSED: Articles of Copartnership/Inter. Robt Morris/Govr.

Morris/Wm Constable/and/John Rucker/dated 10 June 1784/to  
Continue 7 Years from/that date/Octo to Dec 88----381

The year 1789---1441

D-----1790---1282

Jany to Aug 1791---1600

4704

£1600 per A[nnum?]

MS: DS, Miscellaneous Manuscripts, William Constable and Company, NHi.

1. On the formation of William Constable and Company, later Constable, Rucker and Company, see also William Constable to RM, November 21, 1783, and notes, RM to John Rucker, June 18, to Tench Tilghman, June 22, and to Benjamin Franklin, August 24 (Mfm), Gouverneur Morris to the Marquis de Chastellux, June 17-July 1, and William Edgar to Gouverneur Morris, October 13, 1784. The firm was located at Constable's residence on Great Dock Street (now Pearl Street), one block from Coenties Slip, and on Mill Street (now South William Street) in New York City. See Emily Williams, "The Luck of the Irish: A Biographical Sketch of William Constable," Lewis County Historical Society, Journal, V (1975), 11-12; and the New York City Directory for 1786. On the activities of this partnership, which

- Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, May 10, 1784

ended in 1791, see the Constable-Pierrepont Papers, NN; William A. Davis, "William Constable: New York Merchant and Land Speculator, 1772-1803," Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 1955; and Donald G. Tailby, "Chapters from the Career of William Constable: A Merchant of Post-Revolutionary New York," Ph.D. diss., Rutgers University, 1961.

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, May 10, 1784

William Constable and Company was formed in May 1784, with Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris and William Constable as parters. By June 1784 John Rucker had joined the firm, which was then renamed Constable, Rucker and Company. William Constable served as acting partner in New York, while Rucker left for Europe in late August or September to handle the firm's business there. The firm was capitalized at £15,000 Pennsylvania; Robert Morris advanced £10,000 Pennsylvania, or £10,666.13.4 New York currency, as his own share and Gouverneur Morris's share of the capital. Because of Constable's financial difficulties derived from his former partnership of Constable and Seagrove, William Edgar, a longtime friend who married the sister of Constable's wife in 1784, advanced Constable's portion of the capital. Constable, Rucker and Company was dissolved upon Rucker's death in 1788, but the other partners continued in business together in the firm of William Constable and Company until 1791. Gouverneur Morris who left for Europe in December 1788 subsequently handled the firm's business there. Once the partnership expired in 1791 Constable joined his brother James in the firm of William and James Constable and moved to London for the period 1791-1795, leaving James as acting partner in New York. Although no longer partners, Constable, RM, and Gouverneur Morris continued to cooperate in various business ventures until RM's ultimate bankruptcy. See Constable to James Phyn, December 8, 1787, to John Ross,

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and  
William Constable, May 10, 1784

August 25, 1788, to Alexander Ellice, May 23 and November 7,  
1789, to Gouverneur Morris, August 3, 1791, Constable  
Letterbooks, Constable-Pierrepont Papers, NN; Tailby,  
"William Constable," 177-178, 183-184, 202, 203.

To John Rucker, June 18, 1784

1. London-born John Rucker (d. 1788) was a member of an international mercantile family with connections in England, Germany, and France. The London branch was founded by John-Anthony Rucker (ca. 1718-1804), born in Hamburg and naturalized by act of Parliament in March 1744/5, and subsequently a partner in such merchant firms as Amyand, Rucker and Company (with member of Parliament George Amyand), then John-Anthony and John-Peter Rucker, and finally in John-Anthony Rucker and Company, and in a merchant bank called Dorrien, Ruckers, Dorrien and Martin. His firms were active in trade with Germany and Russia and with the West Indies.

John Rucker had previously served as a clerk or assistant to Jonathan Nesbitt and Company at Lorient, a trading partner of RM and of Constable and Seagrove. Rucker's decision to come to the United States may have been precipitated by the financial difficulties then confronting Jonathan Nesbitt and Company.

Rucker was taken into partnership in William Constable and Company (thereafter, Constable, Rucker, and Company). Rucker was immediately assigned to conduct the new firm's

To John Rucker, June 18, 1784

European business. Departing about September 1784, he went first to France, then established himself in London. Rucker died in New York in 1788 shortly after jeopardizing RM's credit and his own by failing to accept bills drawn on him to meet interest payments on the foreign loans of the United States and transactions associated with RM's tobacco contract with the Farmers General. He gave as one reason for his actions the threat of his uncle (John-Anthony Rucker?) to disinherit him if he accepted American bills. Constable, Rucker and Company was dissolved after Rucker's death, but the partnership continued under the firm of William Constable and Company until 1791. See the articles of partnership of RM, Gouverneur Morris and William Constable of May 10, and notes, Gouverneur Morris to Chastellux, June 17-July 1, and RM to Tench Tilghman, June 8 and June 22, and to Franklin, August 24 (Mfm); Rucker to Benjamin Franklin, February 11, 1782, Franklin Papers, PPAmP; and van Winter, Dutch Investment, I, 280, 287-288. For an overview of his career, see the Constable, Rucker and Company correspondence and accounts in the Constable-Pierrepont Papers, NN. The editors wish to thank Harry Duckworth of the University of Manitoba for assistance in procuring data on the Rucker family.

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To Tench Tilghman

Philadelphia 2d September 1784

Dear Sir

You have enclosed a Letter for Monsr. Le Vaigneur the Gentleman who came over in the Ship The Admiral D'Estaing and who has been soliciting the Congress on the Subject of Mr. De Beaumarchais Claims against the United States. A Copy of this Letter is enclosed for your Perusal. With respect to the Subject matter of it, the Sum mentioned to be in the Hands of Mr De Beaumarchais is one Remnant of a loosing Transaction not yet adjusted. Mr Deane interested me in a Privateer the Audacieux. My money was paid. The affair was so mismanaged that the Vessell did not proceed. Losses of course ensued. The Agents employed by Mr De Beaumarchais were not to be found but he being one of the Concerned pursued the Matter and collected some of the Funds. I expect at any rate to be a considerable Looser and even the thirty six thousand Livres in question ought to have been repaid to me long since. I mention these things that you being apprized of the nature of the affair may get for me the Property as speedily and as easily as may be. For I have not so great Confidence in what is written to me as to venture bills on Mr De Beaumarchais (but this enter nous).

It will probably become a question between Mr Le

Vaigneur and you to what amount he is to Pay. The Exchange  
of 7/6 for 5*n*7// is the present rate but is more perhaps  
than he may think right. It is best not to stick at Trifles  
and therefore if he proposes the french Par viz. 5*n*7// 5s  
for a Dollar it will be best to receive the Money at that  
rate being \$6,857 12/90 or perhaps he may be content to Pay  
1500 Louis d'ors which is the amount in the french Currency  
and which will (you know) answer better with us.

I must entreat you to write to me pretty fully on this  
subject should any difficulties occur. Believe me always  
Dear Sir Your Friend and Servant

Robt Morris

Tench Tilghman Esqr.

LIBRARY  
LITTLEFIELD,  
FOURTH STREET.

0  
Venet Highman & J.  
F. Ballou

Philadelphia 2 September 1792

(Dear Sir)

(1) You have enclosed a Letter for  
me to the Gentleman who comes over in the Ship  
the Admiral D'Estany and who has been soliciting the Empress  
on the Subject of Mr. De Beauvau's Claims against the  
United States. A Copy of this Letter is enclosed for your General  
Information on the Subject matter of it. the Sum mentioned to be  
in the Hands of Mr. De Beauvau is one Remnant of a  
long transaction not yet adjusted. A Demand was made on me in  
Prudential the Underwriters why money was paid. The affair  
was so mismanaged that the Life of the said Person was of  
course ruined. The Oppressions displayed by Mr. De Beauvau  
was not to be found but he being one of the Committee pursued the  
matter and collected some of the Bonds. He paid at my Table a  
considerable Sum and even the thirty one thousand Dollars  
in question ought to have been repaid to me long since. I  
mention these things that you being apprized of the nature  
of the affair may get for me the Property as speedily as may be  
as may be. For I have not so great confidence in what is

as written to me as to similar bills on M<sup>r</sup> De Beaumarchais  
(but this enter now)

It will probably become a question between yourself  
M<sup>r</sup> Wagner and you as what amount he is to Pay. The Exchange  
of 7/8 for 5<sup>0</sup> is the present rate but is more perhaps than he  
may think right. It is best not to stick at Truffles and therefore  
if he proposes the french Par <sup>1000</sup> 5<sup>0</sup> <sup>1000</sup> it will be best to receive  
the money at that rate being of 6857 <sup>10</sup> or perhaps he may be  
content to Pay 1500 Louis d'ors which is the amount in the  
french Currency and which will (you know) answer bills with as

I must entreat you to write to me pretty fully on this  
subject should any difficulties occur. Believe me always

Dear Sir

Your Friend & Servt  
Robt Morris

Frank Pilgrim Esq

W<sup>m</sup> Gentlemen

St. Louis May 5<sup>th</sup> 1786

I only received your favor of the 3<sup>d</sup> with its Enclosure. — The Bank has made no Discounts for a Considerable time, and it was with extreme difficulty that they consented in the present instance. indeed they would only do it by giving Post Notes for the amount, payable in 32 days, and even ~~as~~ this they consider as a particular Indulgence. — At first you gave a Sketch of the Discount, and partial payment of the note will be expected when it becomes due. — You will receive by the bearer a Box containing £2000. say: Crows, £50, Dollars 1550. — No more of the former are to be paid. — ~~and~~ I debit you for the same £750. —

I am Sir  
Your obt. Servt  
Postmaster

all-Halligan Note	£5000
Discount Discount	<u>26.60</u>
	£4973.30

no 472 to 516. is 15 of 100 £4500

453, 454, 455. a 3 of 100 - 300

no 517. 1 - 183.30

£4973..30

Mess<sup>m</sup> Constable Rucker & Co New York

Constable Rucker & Co NY

5/5/1786

\$ signs

Miss<sup>t</sup> constable Rucker do<sup>t</sup> Philad<sup>t</sup> June 30. 1786  
Gent<sup>m</sup>

Your several letters of the 24. 25.  
of 28<sup>th</sup> Inst. came duly to hand, the first of them by  
Mr. Furman; who would have returned sooner had  
you mentioned the sum you wished to receive by him  
but in this respect you leave me entirely in the Dark.  
and altho you have furnished my account correctly  
yet this does not enable me to judge whether  
any or what sum is due from me to you, largely  
I cannot tell what I ought to remit. If you had  
told me how much I owe it should have been  
sett<sup>t</sup>. if you want more than I owe of had  
told me so, I would if possible comply with  
your wishes, but as you mention neither one  
or the other of Mr. Furman can give no  
information I suppose your wants are not  
great

Mine are very great, therefore have directed  
Mr. Loring to make up \$3000 to \$4000 whether  
I send Mr. Turner with it, I hope this sum  
will be satisfactory & in future you will be  
kind enough to tell me explicitly whether you  
want of the posting on which you ask it.

On Comparing your account with my Books  
I find you charge May 6<sup>th</sup> W. Alexander &c<sup>o</sup> for sum  
of R. Bourne £137. 6. 3 New York Cury. whereas I  
have charged W. Alexander &c<sup>o</sup> credited you for that  
bill £433 5/90 equal to £173. 6. 8 New York Cury. Your  
charge Job Pieris draft on Job White annapolis  
23<sup>rd</sup> of June £152. 3. 8. whereas I credit you for  
draft £386 4/90 equal to £154. 11. 8 New York Cury  
Therefore I close your old A/c in my Books by  
placing at your credit in a new A/c this day  
£11638. 5. 9 Pensylv<sup>a</sup> equal to £12414. 3. 5/9 New York  
Currency being the balance according to the A/c  
You have

rendered. If I credit you also in the News and for  
short charge on W. A. G. bill to Bowes or Brumfitt 36 -  
short charge on J. Pierces draft on J. White ... 2.8.0

Cost of 240 Bottles of Clerck sent me by Mr.

Rucker £26.11.8 fig 245 £46.10.8 253 York 49.12.5

and if I am right in these credits you will conform thereto, you have 51<sup>1/2</sup> & a 46° bill above insertion consequently can determine who is right —

You charge on the 16<sup>th</sup> May W. A. G. " draft  
in fav<sup>r</sup> of J. J. Mondecai £120. you charge another  
the 3<sup>d</sup> of April to same J. J. Mondecai £120. this last I  
have credited, the other is not in my Book, but a  
draft at same time for the same sum £120 or  
\$300 fav<sup>r</sup> of C. Lee is at your Credit in my Book  
not charged by you, therefore I suppose these two  
to be one of the same bill, my entry respecting in  
whose favour it was drawn of yours to whom you  
paid it, but I wish this matter to be examined  
and if in future you would enter the date, night  
favour, sum in Dollars or sum in New York Credit of every  
bill you pay, your account will be more perfect

may take more easily rectified and the trouble is  
amply compensated by the satisfaction which  
results. I shall have to recharge you with all  
the sums you remitted on the Virginia loan <sup>extra</sup> off  
from the Treasury as there is no prospect of  
payment in any reasonable time, and the  
drafts, given over in payment for Bills \$20,000.  
will return protested for which I am very sorry.

I never doubted the kindly of your intentions by  
remitting to Mr. & Co: Alexander & Co but I repeat  
my desire on that subject, and in future all rem-  
ittances come to me in the first instance. I only  
wish to close the accounts of the Empress of  
China, but of the Compte D'artois also, the  
sum in this last cargo lies very heavy on me.  
If you meet an opportunity I wish you would ship Ten  
Pipes of Brandy for D'artois, to address of Mr. & Harrison  
Nicholls & Co at Portsmouth getting the freight as low  
as you can. Pray have you received the Nine Boxes of claret  
they sent you, it is excellent wine. I propose your  
ship either for Havre or Dieppe if the Table she carries  
is of good quality, or for Bourdeaux or Moulain if

if the quality is not of the best, I will agree to load her in 60 days if she goes to Chesapeake, but she shall, if possible of it is most probable, be dispatched in less than 30 days, in France I require 20 Working days of shall probably get her dispatched in half the time. If you load her in New York the sooner you dispatch her the better and if the North Carolina Febt comes you will be able to do it. I will not purchase Mr Jacobsons Ship, but shall charter her if he chooses. I am &c  
Yours obedtly J. G. F.

Your obedtly J. G. F.

J. G. F. Morning

Bag contg	Dolls	francs	1380
1 do	paid		1000
2	with a packet		
	contg	francs	802.70
	903.3	3.70	
			3182.70

Miss Constable Ruskin & Co  
New York

Robt Morris  
Philadelphia June 30<sup>th</sup> 1786

and 2<sup>d</sup> July

1786

July 30<sup>th</sup>  
George Washington

Mess<sup>r</sup> Constable Rucker & Co. Philad<sup>a</sup> August 12. 1786  
Gent<sup>m</sup>

I have before me your several  
favours of the 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>r</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Ryalls  
bill is good, All his draft on that he has remitted  
but Mr. Alexander has said nothing about the \$3750-  
from Hopkins of Pickel the other drafts over  
mention he has advised off of credit for them upon  
Harrison Nickolls & Co's draft \$35 8<sup>9</sup>/<sub>96</sub>. I am disposed  
to think that you will be disappointed of receiving  
Money equal to your expectations from Mr. Latting on  
but the Bank refuse all discounts & have  
very hampered me much. Curiously, The best People  
here cannot fulfill their engagements Money  
is so extremely scarce and it is with great difficulty  
I can get sufficient to last from one week to another  
I would much chearfully aid your views or make  
you remittance, but at present it is not possible  
This situation may soon be changed therefore make

You can tell me what sum you will want —  
I wished to have applied the money of Fitzsimmons  
as I told you. Money is scarce there — pray  
forward the enclosed to Mr. Becker by the Mercury.

Pray what is the bargain about these boards  
of Ben Harrison for I do not understand it.

I am gentle

Your Obedtble Servtch

J. P. Morris

New York

Miss Custable Rucker &c Philad<sup>a</sup> Oct<sup>8</sup> 1787

Genl.

I have rec'd your favour of  
the 24<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> with your Notes for \$3000 & \$2000.  
together five Thousand Doll<sup>m</sup> with which I shall  
take up the first Note falls due of those in Banks.

If your favour of the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst<sup>d</sup> advises of a draft  
on me in favour of Mr<sup>m</sup> Travis but does not  
mention the sum, it will be honoured, pray  
deliver the enclosed to G. M or cause it to be  
delivered to him yours affable Servt

Hoffmoris

all the Adventurers in  
Tobacco are terribly disappointed